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Dumping sewage in the Great Lakes could soon cost illegal dumpers a lot more money. Congressmen Mark Kirk and Dan Lipinski introduced new legislation called the Great Lakes Water Protection Act.

The act is designed to stop contamination of the Great Lakes by 2026. Fines would triple and could be as high as \$100,000 a day per violation. The money will go back to each state to improve their water reclamation systems.

Lake Michigan is our source for drinking water, but dumping also affects how often we can use beaches.

"The number of beach closures in 2004 outnumbered the days of summer and this legislation is to make that history part of our past and not our future," said Rep. Mark Kirk, (R)-Illinois.